

update

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging



SPRING 2002

2002 Advocacy Issues

On February 1, 2002, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging adopted their advocacy issues agenda. Council Chair Henry Koffler, Ph.D., stated, "Especially under the tight budgetary circumstances that the state is facing, it is critical that our government and the public understand the needs of our elderly population and that we are making every effort to meet them. The agenda that the Council adopted for 2002 deals with some of the most urgent challenges."

The Quality of Care Advocacy Agenda in order of priority is to:

- Promote the ability for older adults to live as independently as possible while staying in their homes by maintaining the current funding levels for non-medical Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).
- Promote healthy aging through accessibility to affordable prescription drug coverage for necessary medicines including brand name drugs and injectables for senior citizens.
- Protect vulnerable adults by developing a system of background checks that will include necessary information utilizing the most accurate sources for persons who work with older adults.
- Protect isolated seniors who are at risk and in need of behavioral health services by continuing to support the statewide implementation of the Gate Opener Program, which has proven effective in a pilot project conducted in Pinal County.
- Promote policy initiatives that assure the health, safety, and welfare of older adults in institutional settings through participation on the Interagency Council on Long Term Care and other efforts.
- Support the creation of comparable packages of services for long-term care insurance—with pricing levels. Support rate level stabilization.
- Support and promote the inclusion of the aging process in K-12 curriculum.

Support Group Training Manual Available

The Governor's Advisory Council's *Support Group Training Manual for Kinship Caregivers and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* is now available for distribution. The manual is designed to enable anyone in a community—professional or layperson—to start a support group, provide emotional assistance to caregivers and gather useful resource information.

The manual is pre-punched to fit a standard three-ring binder, so that local information, resources and other materials may be added to it. In this way, the manual becomes a foundation for community groups to find, utilize and share necessary resources.

To obtain a copy of the *Support Group Training Manual*, call the Council at 602-542-4710.

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Budget Issues Dominate 45th Legislative Session

On March 21, Governor Jane Dee Hull signed into law revisions to decrease the Fiscal Year 2002 budget by more than \$230 million. Now the difficult job begins. The Governor and lawmakers are looking for an additional \$998 million in cuts for FY2003.

With promises of “no new taxes” to Arizona residents and minimizing cuts to classroom funding for K-12, the Governor has released a newly revised FY 2003 budget. By cutting state agency spending by 2.5% across the board, Governor Hull nearly halves the budget deficit. However, that 2.5 % reduction is in addition to a 4.0% or more reduction in the FY 2002 revised budget. On the surface program cuts do not appear to be severe, but state agencies will be faced with \$400 million in cuts to personnel, programs and services.

The Governor is proposing a \$3.7 million reduction to non-medical Home and Community Based Services and a \$300,000 cut to the Supplemental Payments Program. More than 3,000 elderly who receive services may be cut from the program, and the elderly

on waiting lists will be less likely to receive services in the foreseeable future. Advocates for the aging have fought to increase the funding for these programs, to allow older adults to maintain their independence and dignity. Without this funding, the elderly may face unsafe and unhealthy living conditions or prematurely be placed into institutional settings at a higher cost.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee has released its proposed budget, which includes a \$50 million decrease to DES. There are no line item recommendations at this time. Unlike the Governor, who supports the use of revenue bonds, the Legislature is opposed to using revenue bonds to cut state spending. If the Governor and legislators do not agree on using revenue bonds, they will be faced with finding an additional \$240 million to balance the budget. Advocates for older and vulnerable adults will have to be vigilant and vocal to ensure that older and vulnerable adults' needs are recognized, and that they are not disproportionately affected in the budget process.

Around the Office: Staff Changes!

Barry Gold was appointed Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging by Governor Hull, effective May 2001. He has been an integral part of the Council for many years in a variety of areas. He worked closely with the Council in designing and implementing many of their major events, as well as being involved with educational and legislative issues. He has extensive contacts in the aging network and understands how the Council interacts with the community, agencies, and government.

Since being appointed, Barry has been actively involved in the Grandparents Network, the Older Workers Task Force, and completed the *Support Group Training Manual for Kinship Caregivers and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren*. Most recently, he has been focusing his efforts on the Governor's Conference on Aging 2002.

Elvera Anselmo joined the staff on January 25, 2001 as a Program and Projects Specialist. She previously held the position of Program Manager for the Attorney General's Office Elder Affairs Unit. Since coming to the Council, Elvera has been monitoring and analyzing state and federal policy initiatives, working on numerous educational projects, and assisting with the 2002 Conference.

Shawn Trobia began as Program & Project Specialist at the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging on March 4, 2002. Shawn was with the Division of Developmental Disabilities for 13 years, where she worked in many capacities. As the Benefits Coordinator for southern Arizona, Shawn assisted support coordinators, contracted providers, and family members with health care and benefit issues. Most recently, Shawn worked as a Training Specialist at DDD.



Arizona Governor's Conference on Aging May 14 -16, 2002 • Tucson, Arizona

Nationally known speakers and workshops focusing on active aging will highlight the Arizona Governor's Conference on Aging at the Radisson City Center in downtown Tucson, 181 W. Broadway. Designed for seniors, families, professionals, and businesses, the conference provides an opportunity to gather information and to speak with experts in the fields of health, caregiving, Social Security, and other state and federal programs.

Keynote Speaker: Marc Freedman, President of Civic Ventures

Mr. Freedman is a nationally known author of *Prime Time, How Baby Boomers will Revolutionize Retirement and Transform America*. He will talk about "Coming of Age: How the Aging of America Can Revitalize Our Country."

Other featured speakers to include:

- **Dr. Mac McCrory**, Director of the Seretean Wellness Center at Oklahoma State University, who will discuss how to live a long and healthy life.
- **Martha McSteen**, President of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security, who will update participants on the national legislative initiatives involving Social Security.
- **Dr. Evan Kligman**, Co-Director of the Arizona Center on Aging, and **Dr. Victoria Maizes**, Executive Director for the Program in Integrative Medicine and graduate of the Fellowship Program started by Andrew Weil at the University of Arizona.
- **Dale Bell**, who will show video highlights from his upcoming PBS documentary on caregiving, entitled *And Thou Shalt Honor*.

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WORKSHOPS IN
4 PROGRAM TRACTS!

- **Caregiving**
- **Active Aging: Health and Wellness**
- **Policy and Trends**
- **Economic Development**

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PRE-CONFERENCE
INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

- **Aging with Spirituality**
- **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**
- **Cultures & Communities: New Images of Aging**
- **Advanced Care Planning for Professionals**
- **Women's Health: Strategies for A Healthy Lifestyle**

The conference will also host a contemporary visual art exhibition, "Embracing Time: A Celebration On Aging," that brings attention to the serious and humorous aspects of aging.



DETACH HERE BEFORE MAILING



Arizona Governor's Conference on Aging • May 14- 16, 2002 REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEES (Includes conference materials, Older Americans Month luncheon, and evening reception):

- ☐ Individuals/Professionals Before May 6 \$75
- ☐ Seniors (60+) \$25

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MAY 6, 2002 After May 6 add \$15

Older Americans Month Luncheon

- ☐ Registrant ☐ Vegetarian Plate Requested No Charge
- ☐ Luncheon Guest ☐ Vegetarian Plate Requested \$15

Conference/Luncheon Subtotal \$

Pre-Conference Intensive Workshops — Tuesday, May 14

- ☐ Grandparents/Kinship Care 9:00 am - 12:00 pm \$15
- ☐ Adv. Care Planning for Professionals 8:00 am - 12:00 pm \$15
- ☐ Cultures & Communities: New Images of Aging 11:00 am - 2:00 pm \$40
- ☐ Aging with Spirituality 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm \$15
- ☐ Women's Health: Strategies for a Healthy Lifestyle 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm \$15

Pre-Conference Workshops Subtotal \$

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION TOTAL \$

For further information call: Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, 602-542-4710

Name _____

Agency _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone No. (_____) _____

Fax No. (_____) _____

Please make check, money order or purchase order for conference registration total, payable to:

**GACA/Conference
Site Code 008A
1789 W Jefferson St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

If paying by purchase order, please provide P.O. # _____

(GACA Tax ID #866004791)

Prescription Assistance Research

In support of the Council's Advocacy Issues Agenda, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is researching prescription benefit programs. This research is intended to provide the Council information on available options.

Several legislative bills were introduced for prescription programs. One appears likely to pass, HB 2464, which would create a clearinghouse of prescription assistance information. This will provide seniors a place where they can receive information on programs that offer a discount on prescriptions.



Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

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